



ARENA REPORT



P.O. Box 952547, Lake Mary, FL 32795-2547

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Volume III, Number 15

April 29, 1991

Hello everyone and welcome to another edition of "AR". This is one of those issues where I knew the day I mailed out the last one, that I would have much material for this go round. We have two live reports. One from Jacksonville and WCW and the other from Orlando and the Fed. Scott Hudson reports on the latest Omni show as well as the "WCW Pro" tapings that took place on 4/22. He also sent a supplement on the Georgia All-Star tapings in which Scotty the Body roughed up our "Georgia Wrestling Journal" editor while he was guest ring announcing. Mike Terry drops in for his views on the recent mat scene. Evan Ginzburg looks at the recent Meadowlands show and gets his digs in on WCW at the same time. (Who hasn't lately?) We have a special guest column from Mike Lano who gives us his insight into Japan and lady wrestling. We have a report from Bruce Grummert on the recent Titan tapings from Omaha in the "Correspondent's Corner" section.

Of course, we're gearing up for the big weekend in Tampa-St. Pete for the SuperBrawl I PPV show. Hope to see many of you there. That weekend will be the focus of our next issue as the cover date will be 5/20. We are taking the extra we'll be in Connecticut from 5/3-5/12. Expect the next issue to be a couple days late as I won't be getting back from the Gulf Coast until Monday afternoon so hopefully it'll be out by Wednesday 5/22. That issue will also have "Under The Mushroom" with Klon giving his meanderings on the weekend. Scott Hudson will probably add his nickel (Mike Terry has 2-cents copyrighted.) on the weekend into his column along with more news from the Peach State. And Marianne Ryan will grace us with her presence as well.

Arena Report is published bi-weekly unless otherwise noted at the cost of \$1.00 per issue. A label on the envelope indicates how many issues you have remaining on your sub. All renewals, letters, results etc. can be sent to Arena Report, P.O. Box 952547, Lake Mary, FL 32795-2547. Enough of this business. Let's go to Jacksonville.

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING

Thursday, April 18, 1991

Jacksonville Coliseum

Jacksonville, FL

Opening Match

Brad Armstrong beat Dutch Mantell with a powerslam at 8:13. I missed most of this match as I was talking with a WCW official so it wouldn't be fair to grade it although it looked pretty decent.

2nd Match

Dustin Rhodes bulldogged Black Bart in 9:30. Pretty good bout. Dustin is over huge. They missed a couple of moves near the finish but still respectable.

3rd Match

Brian Pillman defeated Master Blaster in 10:28 with a flying bodypress off the top rope. Blaster was Kevin Nash under a red hood. This guy had started to improve but he was awful in this outing. Stiff as an ironing board. The height difference in this match was unreal but Pillman tried and it didn't look that unrealistic. Worst match I've seen Brian in but totally not his fault. ** $\frac{1}{4}$ *

4th Match

Terry Taylor downed Bobby Eaton in 13:17. Mr. Hughes was with Terry and they announce him as "Head of Security". Nice touch. Early on, Terry started heading for the dressing room when Bobby went to get him and punched him all the way back to the ring. Good action. He knocked him over the guardrail and into the crowd. Taylor did a great bit where he threw ref Patrick down and then threw Bobby over the top rope. When Nick got up, Terry was laying on his back like he was hurt and blamed Eaton for hitting Patrick. No one takes a post shot like Bobby Eaton. Taylor at one point stood on the bottom rope and suplexed Eaton back in the ring. Looked great. Fans oohd and ahhhed. (Spelling, but you tell me how to spell those noises.) Finish came when Eaton was chasing Taylor outside the ring and Mr. Hughes clotheslined him. He then threw Bobby into the ring and Taylor pinned him with the help of the ropes. Dustin Rhodes ran in to argue with the ref but sent Taylor scurrying and then had a face off with Hughes that got the most heat of the night. Crowd was going nuts. They never did face off though. *** $\frac{1}{4}$ *

World Tag Team Championship

Rick & Scott Steiner retained the belts beating Barry Windham & Arn Anderson in 11:55. When the referee was checking Rick, he found a screwdriver in his knee brace and Rick snapped his fingers as if to say, "Shoot, he found it." Funny stuff. At one point, Scott threw Arn the bird and the fans moaned. I don't think they appreciated such a baby like Scott doing that. If he keeps it up he'll lose his image. Good chase on the outside ended when Arn missed a clothesline on Scott but he got up just in time to get nailed by Windham. Arn was going for a piledriver on Rick when Scott came off the top rope for a sunset flip on Anderson and the 1,2,3. *** $\frac{1}{2}$ *

U.S. Championship

Lex Luger and Nikita Koloff went to a double disqualification in 9:48 when they roughed up Bill Alphonso. Two fans were showing a huge American flag at Nikita, a Minnesota native. Alphonso took a bump during this match that reminded me of Tommy Young. He hit the bottom rope face first and then went out of the ring head first. Looked like he should have suffered at least whiplash. Match wasn't that hot but post match was good as they brawled to the back and Lex slammed Koloff's head into the cage that was going to be used later in the night. *** $\frac{1}{4}$ *

Grudge Match

Ron Simmons pinned Butch Reed after Teddy Long hit Reed with brass knucks by accident. This was all brawling but not as good as expected. Too short as it only went 5:09. Hope they do better than this at the PPV. * $\frac{1}{4}$ *

World Heavyweight Championship-Steel Cage

Ric Flair beat Sting to retain the title in 14:37. El Gigante was to be the guest referee but Arn and Barry jumped him before he got into the cage so Alphonso did the duties. Near the end when Sting was pounding on Flair, Arn came down and started climbing the cage but Gigante followed and started pulling Arn down. While this was going on, Sting rolled up Flair but the Nature Boy reversed it with tights and scored the pin. Gigante jumped into the ring and as Sting was pinning Flair, counted to three. The fans went crazy, Sting took the belt and no announcement was made that Flair was still the champ. How stupid can Dusty be? Does he think the fans enjoy this screwy ending? Good bout although I'm going blind from watching Sting-Flair matches. *** $\frac{1}{4}$ *

Notes

They had 3,800 in attendance which wasn't bad considering the main event has been here three times in the past six months.....Jim Herd was here as they had a press conference earlier in the night to promote the new WCW trading cards. Buddy Landell was also visiting since this is his hometown.....Scott Steiner threw a chair around in the dressing room after the bout as he broke a tooth during the action.....I'm not positive on this but I believe former AWA ref Gary Derusha called the first three bouts tonight. Sure looked like him..... WCW looking at Jacksonville for a future PPV sight.....

IT'S MY 2-CENTS

by Mike Terry

Where have all the standard bearers of righteousness gone? Will Vince McMahon inflict arguably his hardest-core angles ever with nary a wimper from the virtuous multitudes who cried out with one voice when the dastardly Terry Funk sought to suffocate Ric Flair with the despicable plastic bag? I gotta tell you, gang, the plastic bag angle didn't offend me all that much. I thought it was a rather imaginative angle. The bag wasn't tight around Flair's neck; it wasn't left on long enough that anyone might really fear for Flair's life. No one had to rush forward to apply CPR.

Having said that, I'm frankly very uncomfortable with the Undertaker essentially snuffing the Ultimate Warrior on nationally syndicated television. I guess we all have our boundaries. Mine was crossed. And it was crossed again last weekend when the Earthquake made boia puree out of Damien. Too far, Vincent. Over the line. And I predict the anabolic announcer will pay. Somehow this just doesn't jive with sports entertainment. If I were a parent watching these angles with my kids, I'll tell you one thing. My kids wouldn't be watching again. Nor would I spend my money taking them to the body bag match at the next arena shot. If I were general manager of a television station and took the inevitable calls of complaint, I'd sure be hard-pressed to justify it. Might be a bit easier to justify moving the show to 3 a.m. or even a pink slip since the ratings have been on a downward spiral anyway.

Another writer used the word "desperation" to describe the flurry of angles I call "shock angles." Desperate to get the house show attendance up. Desperate to get people talking and in front of their TV sets for the May sweeps. We've come a long way from pies in the face and sausage-stuffing. Now we're gonna give our faithful little Hulksters and Warriors nightmares. And where do we go from here?

In other news.....Ultimate Warrior did an interview recently without face paint. One week only.....Steamboat's getting over like a fart in church.....Somebody buy Grizzly Smith the "Hooked on Phonics" reading cassettes.....The 4/21 All-American Wrestling opening montage featured a short clip of Dusty Rhodes devouring a piece of apple pie.....Whenever things get real bad, just be happy Lance Von Erich isn't around.

Nickname of the month? Bill Mercer calls Buzz Sawyer: "Buzzy Man." OK, Mercer-meister. Take your medication and lie down now.....Separated at birth: Jerry Tarkanian and Frank Morell.....keep your eye on WCW jobber Joe Barrett. Kid's got potential.....People I expect to see soon in WCW: Gary Hart and Abdullah the Butcher.....The latest WCW sponsored replay is called "The Castrol High Performance of the Week." What's next--The Preparation H Piledriver of the Week?

No doubt in my mind, Dustin Rhodes will be a dominant force in this sport in the 90s. Not because he's Dusty's son. He'll succeed because he's got the talent, style, and finesse to earn it.....Gotta give Larry Z. (whose last name I could never spell) credit. He's still fast and solid in the ring.

This is the first month in a while that I haven't had any nasty things to say about Simply Irritating Jeff Jarrett.....We are fortunate to be witnessing a team the calibre of the Steiners in their prime. When we're all 60 and talking about how wrestling just ain't what it used to be, Rick and Scott will be the team we say no one has equalled since.....Congratulations to the brain trust at WCW for featuring Sid Vicious on the cover of the current magazine. With the speculation on his future extending back at least several months, why chance putting him on the cover?

Isn't it interesting that the WWF is selling the Wrestlemania VII videotape by plugging the Randy Savage-Elizabeth reunion and NOT Hulk Hogan vs. Slaughter?.....Bloopers of the Month: Michael St. John on USWA calls El Gran Pistolero--Gypsy Joe. I remember Gypsy Joe from 20 years ago and he was old then. But a damn good worker. Takes post shots and chair shots head on--no hands up.

Whatever happened to Koko B. Ware's heel turn? Guess it laid an egg.....Not to steal the thunder from the Bushwackers, but next time they come on Prime Time Wrestling with their comedy weather report, I forecast embarrassed silence from the audience. Who writes that crap?

Spare change: Talk about embarrassed--that's a mild word to describe the feeling I get seeing Andre the Giant hobble around. And they're putting him in the ring? Why do I suspect that if El Gigante had never appeared in WCW that Andre would still be on Herb Abrams' show?

Finally, an actual letter from the editor which appeared in a recent issue of "National Lampoon:" "Sirs and Madams: Never let important career decisions be made by Captain Lou Albano. That's my legacy.....Cyndi Lauper; Obscurity Flats, N. Mex."

Obscurely yours until next month, it's my 2-cents.

SCOTT HUDSON'S.....

GEORGIA WRESTLING JOURNAL

WHETHER YOU LIKE IT OR DON'T LIKE IT, LEARN TO LOVE IT! My mom used the exact same line on me trying to get me to eat English Peas. Whatever, welcome to issue 18 of the Georgia Wrestling Journal. Read ahead at your own risk..

OMNI COLISEUM (Atlanta, Georgia) April 14, 1991: Big Josh over Moondog Rex (Randy Culley) with the Butt-bomb in 6:39 *..One Man Gang over Brad Armstrong with the 747 in 6:07 DUD..Dustin Rhodes over El Cubano using the bulldog in 7:17 *½..Big Van Vader over Joe Cazana & Lt. James Earl Wright in a handicap squash that went 3:13..Tom Zenk over Larry Zybysko with the top rope dropkick in 7:02 **..Terrance Taylor over Bobby Eaton after Mr. Hughes clotheslined Bobby in 19:30. Dustin Rhodes, who ran-in following the pin, had a heat-packed stare-down with Mr. Hughes afterward ***..Ron Simmons over Butch Reed with a cradle in 8:00 of a Lumberjack Match. This started out good but fizzled drastically and quickly. Simmons juiced after being triple teamed by Gang, Reed, & Kevin Sullivan in the post-match activities *..Rick & Scott Steiner over Sid Vicious & Arn Anderson when Scott pinned Sid (now there's a surprise!) in 12:05. Finish saw Sid have Rick set up for a powerbomb when Scott sunset flips Sid for the pin ***..Lex Luger and Nikita Koloff went to a 9:35 DDQ brawl **..Sting & El Gigante over Ric Flair & Barry Windham when El Gigante pinned Flair in 20:00. The finish saw Sting accidentally bump into Gigante who then accidentally fell on a prone Flair to accidentally get the pin (this was booked?!) **..NEWS AND NOTES: WCW will return to the Omni on 05-26-91, however the card has not yet been announced ..Rumor has it the Dallas' Freddie Fargo will have a column in the new WCW magazine..Upper level seats at this show went for \$5.00..Zybysko and Zenk stalled for 90 seconds comparing the "Z"s on their respective tights..(ATT: 7500, though estimates varied above and below. A huge crowd to be sure.)

COBB COUNTY CIVIC CENTER (Marietta, Georgia) April 22, 1991 TV TAPINGS FOR WCW PRO FOR AIR THE WEEKENDS OF MAY 11, 1991 THROUGH MAY 25, 1991: (05-11-91) Sting & Lex Luger over Paul Lee & ?..El Gigante over Jim Boss..Dustin Rhodes over Tom Buton..Ron Simmons over Mike Steele..One Man Gang & Butch Reed over Brett Sawyer & Scott Allen..Bobby Eaton over Jeff Stone..Nikita Koloff over Ian Weston..(05-18-91) Rick & Scott Steiner over Dave Johnson & Mike Maverick..Sting & Lex Luger over Mark Kyle & Hacksaw Higgins..Ric Flair over Johnny Rich..Big Josh over Mike Steele..Brian Pillman over Jim Corbett..Dustin Rhodes over Doug Vines..Junkyard Dog, Tommy Rich, & Ricky Morton over Jeff Sword, Tom Burton, & Joe Cazana..(05-25-91) Junkyard Dog & Ron Simmons over Jeff Sword & Jim Corbett..Dustin Rhodes & Ricky Morton over Tom Burton & Mark Kyle..Nikita Koloff over Scott Allen..Angel of Death & One Man Gang over Larry Santo & Phillip Paris..El Gigante & Brian Pillman over The State Patrol..Arn Anderson & Ric Flair over Bobby Eaton & Big Josh ..Butch Reed over ?..NEWS AND NOTES: The big heat was put on the growing feud between Dustin and The York Foundation. Following Dustin's 05-18 squash over Vines, Alexandra York & Mr. Hughes come to ringside and make their final offer to Dustin. Dustin wads up the contract and throws it at Mr. Hughes. As Alexandra attempts to slap Dustin, he grabs her hand and plants a long, long, kiss on her. Dustin smirks and swaggers from the ring as York is numbed. This is really good..Dave Sheldon is in as the Angel of Death, NOT as the 3rd Freebird..Expect Nikita to run-in during the Steiners vs. Sting & Luger match at the PPV with Luger ending up injured. Just a guess..(ATT: 800. Good heat for everything Larry Zybysko did. Crowd was into it all.) See you all in St. Pete!.....

THE LAST WORD...



"MATWATCH'S"
Steve Beverly

SEPARATED
AT
BIRTH



"FWI'S"
Bill Apter

LET'S GET SERIOUS !!!
BY DR. MICHAEL LANO(WRESTLING'S DENTIST)

I have taken it upon myself in the many storebought, mark magazines to try to educate "john or josephine q. public" in what makes a great lady wrestler. America does have a few who are truly dedicated athletes, and those of course are the names that come up mostly in the sheets. Again, realizing that a Tor Berg or Joe Pedicino is catering to mark mentality, and it's hell to pay for all of us.

Have any of us really, really watched the first boxing shoot between Madusa Miceli and Aja Kong from last May? I mean, really watch it. I flinched at the intensity and stiff punches. One has to marvel at America's marvel, Madusa, who has more guts and determination than all of us put together. In the bloody last and 6th round, Madusa again had her nose broken which was broken a 5th time a short time later during a kick-boxing match in Thailand, literally entering into her sinus carvernososa area- which could have been life-threatening.

My title is Let's Get Serious- and that's what I mean. Madusa, Debbie Drake and Luna Vachon are as deserving of our praise as the guys. They are fighting tough odds while in the states, since the critical perception is that of sex-object, or wrestling card adornment to the "more important" guys matches. I'm here to tell you after two trips to Japan in less than 3 months that these women and more deserve better. I've seen and been on the schedule that the All Japan women face- very little social life or time to write home. The very restrictive rule of three(no cigs, alcohol or drugs or boyfriends) means instant firing. Americans must ask permission to use certain holds that are routinely used by the Japanese ladies, and my catchphrase of "when they're not in action... they're in traction," certainly applies. A broken arm or leg (Madusa suffered a broken wrist and was told to keep going during the match!) during a worked match means nothing. You keep going. Boxing shoots occur all the time, and many aren't aware that the 2nd AJA-Madusa boxing/wrestling match was a shoot till the worked k.o. ending. I think we should all be pleased that although it was ruled a draw, our made in the u.s.a., Madusa, was the unequivocal winner.

Madusa is the first ever wrestling athlete, serious enough about improving her craft to stop everything and move over there. I've given her the nod as MOST IMPROVED ATHLETE the last two years specifically for what she accomplished. Sure, Destroyer and Anthon Geesink had similar stints in the early 70's, but they never learned the style- they just kept going with their own schtick. Miceli, on the other hand, became "one of them." Her success in the ring has also made her one of Japan's biggest celebrities- whether in the recording studio, video and film world, and television. A book about her will soon be put out and we'll keep you posted on details.

But, let's get serious! Those female athletes(Madusa, Sherry, Debbie Drake/Malenko, Luna Vachon) deserve our praise rather than comments on their hair, bust or eyeliner. Demand that Tor Berg focus on workrate, and perhaps we can all change LPWA for the better, before it goes the way of the UWF- down the tubes. Sayonara and please pay the receptionist on the way out.

A BIG P.S.! I apologize for anyone's view I blocked on the WCW Starcade in Japan PPV- Yes that was this big lunthead whose main Nikon went out after the Muta match and had to borrow Ric Steiner's camera. Next PPV I'm wearing a suit and tie, rather than a \$180.00 Nicole Miller shirt that many mistook for a Hawaiiin shirt! So the mystery guygene at ring side is now solved...

Late Results:

Providence Civic Center (WWF)

Providence, RI

April 27, 1999

Correspondent: Louie Fortuna

1) Bushwhackers beat Power & Glory in 9:38 when Butch rolled up Roma after Hercules accidentally hit Paul with a chain. 2) Col. Mustafa beat Hacksaw Duggan in 3:52 when he threw salt in Hack's eyes. 3) Big Bossman pinned The Mountie in 6:59 with the sideslam. 4) Ultimate Warrior over Undertaker via DQ in 8:42 when Callas hit Warrior with the urn. 5) Bret Hart beat Mr. Perfect via count out in 17:43. Best bout of the night. 6) I.R.S. taxed Tugboat in 8:15 with the help of the ropes. 7) Legion of Doom beat Nasty Boys via count out in 11:04. *** ATT: 6,000 Return 6/30 with Mustafa & Slaughter vs. Hogan & Duggan. Uuugh!

WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION

Sunday, April 28, 1991

Orlando Arena

Orlando, FL

Tag Team Match

The Bushwhackers defeated Power & Glory in 8:52. Whackers were taking bumps before they were even hit. Some kids behind me said, "On TV they make it look real." Hercules went to hit Butch with his chain but Miller ducked and Roma got leveled and pinned. I use to be a closet Hercules fan. Well I've come out of the closet. He stinks. -*

2nd Match

Hacksaw Duggan pinned Col. Mustafa with a spear in 7:08. While Hack had Sheik in a headlock, Sheik asked Duggan, "Can you give me a lift to West Palm for tommorrow's show?" Duggan replied, "Take a hike." -**

3rd Match

Big Boss Man beat The Mountie in 6:35 with the sideslam. They squared off at first with the nightstick vs. The Zapper. Call it the mark in me but I enjoyed watching Rougeau get the snout slapped out of him. His character really irritates me. After BBM scored the pin, Rougeau zapped him until Tomy Garea and Jerry Brisco made him leave. *

WWF Tag Team Championship

Legion of Doom over Nasty Boys via count out in 10:50. Nasties carried this one until the last couple of minutes. Roadies were going through the motions. Warriors had the advantage until Knobbs hit Animal with Jimmy Hart's motorcycle helmet. Good spot saw Saggs whip Knobbs into the corner at Animal but Animal moved out and Knobbs hit the buckles and Animal clotheslined Saggs all in one motion. Hawk got the hot tag and hit the Nasties with a double clothesline to knock them both out of the ring and they started back to the dressing room where they got counted out. When the Legion went after Jimmy Hart, the Nasties hit the ring again only to be thwarted and gave Knobbs the off the shoulder clothesline to leave him laying. ** $\frac{1}{4}$

WWF Intercontinental Championship

Bret Hart upended Mr. Perfect via count out in 15:53. Good match but not as fast paced as I would have liked. Very methodical. Ring announcer got irritated at the guy running the entrance music as he announced Hennig first but the sound man started playing Hart's. Sound guy had the right idea. The challenger should come out first. A sign in the crowd said, "Perfect Has No Hart". Sad thing is, the person probably would spell the organ that way for real. Curt was on the top rope when Bret punched him and Hennig got crotched and fell out of the ring where he was counted out. After the match, Hart hammered Curt and then put him in the scorpion until ref broke it. Bret "Stinger" Hart. *** $\frac{1}{4}$

6th Match

I. Mike R. Rotunda S. pinned Tugboat in 7:17. Mike said over the mic, "It's no secret that most tax cheats live right here in Orlando, Florida." Boy, and I thought he told Providence they had the worst. And Boston, and Pittsburgh, and..... If you haven't seen his ring attire yet you're missin the ultimate humiliation. He wears his white dress shirt, red suspenders, his tie, black trunks with panty hose color tights. Personally, I would have stayed in WCW for less money. They screwed the ending up unmercifull Tugger missed a charge and Rotunda cradled him but couldn't reach the ropes for leverage like he was supposed to so the ref stopped counting at two ar. Rotunda released the hold and raised his arms and left. No bell or anythi When announcement that I.R.S. had ~~one~~, the place booded big time. -***

WWF Heavyweight Championship

Sgt. Slaughter defeated Hulk Hogan via DQ in 9:18. The Sarge and Adnon cmae ou and said it was Saddam's birthday so Slaughter sang Happy Birthday. Unrea Other than Sarge's patented bumps, this was nothing. Ref took a bump, Slaughter took the title belt and walloped the ref a couple of times. When he went after Hogan, Hulk took it away and nailed Sarge with it but the ref caught it and DQ'd Hogan. *

NOTES

Crowd was 6,700 which is disappointing for Hogan but Orlando hasn't drawn 10,000 for any non TV shows here.....You always hear smart wanna be's saying they put mics under the ring to make the falls sound better. Tonight it may have been true. Every time someone hit the mat, there was an echo throughout the building.....Are there mics under the ring?.....They return here 6/29 with Undertaker-Warrior. By then that match will be ancient history. I should be able to call that spot for spot. Show tonight was one of the worst this year.

Here's a real piece of my mind, and it may not sound too pretty...

I'm writing this the morning after the NWA's 4/4 Meadowlands Arena show. Anyone who reads my sheet or this column knows I'm a tremendous NWA supporter. Yet something needs to be said...

Basically, what seemed to happen last night is that faced with the realization that they A) did not draw and B) lost money again, they sped (and I mean sped!) through the 9 card/2 intermission show in less than two and a half hours. Most of the matches were pretty worthless and the ones that weren't felt incredibly rushed. Sure, there were some spurts of good action, and I've certainly seen worse shows, but it basically came down to watching a handful of duds and short, mediocre matches.

It wasn't worth the 2 month wait. Nor was it worth the two hours of travel back home at the end of a tiring work week. I won't even get into the expense of going as I've covered that subject before.

It boils down to this: everybody who pays for a ticket deserves the best the athletes have to offer. They also deserve the best show possible (the Steiners & Eaton were reportedly on a B Circuit card that night so the show had obvious limitations to begin with). I understand that it's hard to get pumped up in front of small crowds. I realize that injuries often play a factor in bad matches. Yet promoters have to realize that we love this sport and continue to support it in spite of the many disappointments. But there's only so many times you go through this before you get disgusted. I don't attend WWF shows anymore. I don't travel to NWA shows in Philly anymore. Eventually, I might not even find the trip to the Meadowlands worthwhile and just stick to local indies, PPV's, and Goodhart's shows. Encourage me to come back! I want to come back!

Don't just take my money and run!

A few other quick notes and thoughts. Why bury Zybsysko when he has a big East Coast following? Oh, yeah. He's not freakishly big like his opponent Vader; sometimes I forget the insane "rules" that govern today's wrestling. And why have a B show somewhere else when there are 15,000 or so empty seats that need to be filled at the Meadowlands? Also, if you're going to book Owen Hart, why waste him in the opener? Hart-Ricky Morton would have sizzled; instead they wrestled 2 masked meatballs in meaningless squashes.

A final note- I'm skipping the plugs for Wrestling-Then & Now in the next few columns. If having strong nostalgia features, interviews with guys like Orndorff, Tolos, Sheik Adnan & Albano (this issue), and a great staff (Doc Lano, Harry White, Vic Stanley etc.) haven't convinced you to subscribe yet, I guess I'm just wasting the space! This is (really!) the last time you'll be seeing this info for a long while so take heed: \$1.25 copy/\$12 yr to PO Box 471 Oakland Gdns. Station- Flushing, NY 11364.

Oh, yeah. Like Tramel and Zinger before me I've met a wonderful lady (thought I'd end this column on an up note!).

In parting, as that great prophet Don Cornelius would say, I wish you all love, peace and...a Piper heel turn!

Later...

GEORGIA WRESTLING JOURNAL SUPPLEMENT.....

SPARKLES RINK (Canton, Georgia) April 21, 1991 GEORGIA ALL-STAR TV TAPINGS FOR AIR THE WEEKENDS OF MAY 11, 1991 THROUGH JUNE 1, 1991. (05-11-91) Festus over Mad Dog Joe..Fabian over The Vortex..Jon Michaels over PYT Frederick..(05-18-91) Joel Deaton over Steve Lawler ..Billy Black over James Myers..Scotty the Body over Chief Little Lynn..(05-25-91) Chris Walker & Curtis Thompson over The Avengers..Big Bully Busick over Tim Strong..Joel Deaton over Mad Dog Joe..The PYT's over Jon Michaels & Fabian..(06-01-91) Brute Force over Brody Chase & James Myers..Lady X (Peggy Lee Leather) over Susan Sexton..Chris Walker over Eddie Sweat..Billy Black over Festus..NEWS AND NOTES: Deaton pins Lawler to win the Georgia Heavyweight Championship on the 5-18 show after a big contract signing on the 5-11 show.. Scotty the Body got over great, although, as a heel, he got super babyface pops all night long (despite hitting yours truly during the ring introductions)..Billy Black's 5-18 show match was incredible. During a 4:00 match, Black did a Northern Lights Suplex, an enzuigiri, 3 successive dropkicks, a double underhook into a powerbomb (ala Scott Steiner) and used a moonsault finisher. Whew..The 5-11 show has Steve Prazak as Steven DeTruth doing a heel ring announcer bit. The the camera shot comes up for the intros, DeTruth is in the heel's corner (whether the heel is a jobber or not) and has to be reminded by the ref to do the intros. He then does the intros ala Tony Gillem, heavily emphasizing the heels no matter if the heel is going over or not. This is a pretty funny bit. (ATT: 250)

CORRESPONDENT'S CORNER

Niagara Falls Civic Center (WWF) Niagara Falls, NY March 13, 1991
Correspondent: Brent Clark

1) The Mountie beat Koko Ware with his cut throat slam in seven minutes. Koko wrestled like a heel even attacking Rougeau before the bell. C- 2) Rockers over Orient Express via DQ in 15:00 when the ref caught Fuji throwing the cane into the ring. (Even though he really didn't see it.) A- 3) Hacksnore Duggan pinned General Adnon in 3:00. Fans were laughing at the match. Dud 4) Davey B Smith pinned Ted DiBiase when Virgil, who was at ringside, tripped Ted while he had Smith up for a suplex and DiBiase went down with the Bulldog on top of him. B- 5) Kerry Von Erich and the Warlord went to a double count out in 8:00. C 6) Hart Foundation beat Earthquake & Dino Bravo when Neidhart slammed Bret on top of Dino and scored the pin. B+ 7) Virgil won a twenty man battle royal eliminating Dino Bravo as the last man. ATT: 6,000

Lutesville Community Center (IWA) Lutesville, MO April 12, 1991
Correspondent: John Herron

1) Johnny Ramirez and Big Bad Tony went to a double DQ. F 2) Johnny Diamond and Rick Brown went to a double DQ also. F for match but A for heat. Who booked this crap? 3) Big Thunder beat Big Jim Reed (Booker likes the nickname "Big". How original. A 4) Riki Jean London pinned Pure Gold in a ladies match D- and that's being generous. ATT: 50

Brockton High School (IWF) Brockton, MA April 19, 1991
Correspondent: Vinnie Carolan

1) Flying Bill Wilcox beat Brian Bugle. Wilcox showed some good stuff including a Muta handspring elbow. C+ 2) Jaime West went to a double DQ with Brittany Brown in a ladies match. Nothing more than a T & A show here. D- 3) Davey Jones beat Mike Bernard. Two Kowalski students who tried but are very green. D+ 4) Jason the Horrible beat Tony Roy in the worst bout of the evening. Jason was managed by The Bug (Don Laible). Jason attacked the ring announcer after the bout and he bladed. F 5) Karate master Richard Byrne defeated Bruce Battalia in a mixed match. D 6) The Altar Boys (There's a different gimmick.) beat Mad Dog Richard and Chris Duffy. Duffy made this a non-disaster. C- 7) Honkey Tonk Man and Nikolai Volkoff went to a double DQ. Honkey had a heel manager that would ask the crowd not to throw things at him and when he said it, it was like Pearl Harbor. D ATT: 800

Boston Garden (WWF) Boston, MA April 20, 1991
Correspondents: Louie Fortuna & Vinnie Carolan

1) Barbarian and Bret Hart went to a draw. C 2) Rick Steamboat beat Haku with a flying cross body. Rick didn't bring fire to the ring with him. C 3) Ted DiBiase beat Roddy Piper when the ref stopped the match because Roddy was in the figure four with the hurt leg. Place was going bananas with chants of Roddy. A- 4) Kerry Von Erich and Warlord went to a double count out. Warlord subbed for Rick Martel. D- 5) Sgt. Slaughter beat Hulk Hogan when the ref caught Hulk with a chair. C+ 6) The Bezerker over Tugboat when Fuji threw salt in Tugger's eyes and Nord pinned him. F 7) Curt Hennig turned back Davey Boy Smith with the help of the ropes. Not Perfect's best effort. C+ 8) Rockers b Orient Express. Not as good as the Rumble but it was good. B- ATT: 9,000

LETTERS TO "AR"

The Funeral Parlor

I lived in a funeral home for over 20 years starting when I was 6 years old. My brother Pat, the third generation, operates Lanigan Funeral Home in East Pittsburgh, PA today. To watch the grisly funeral parlor antics of Paul Bearer on Prime Time and most recently on Superstars where Paul and Undertaker stuffed the Warrior into a casket were priceless. No, I wasn't offended. I think it's because Paul-Percy is so good and watching the "suits" act like Keystone Cops trying to extricate the Warrior had me on the floor laughing. Hell, I can remember the times I use to shove an unsuspecting buddy into the embalming room and turn the lights out. I always got a kick out of that. Ha, Ha.

Now, my brother the mortician is furious and has made an attempt to try and locate Paul-Percy's home area to get his license revoked. My brother claim this has set the funeral business back 30 years. I replied that no one will remember this angle in 6 months after the Warrior and Undertaker culminate their feud in the Summer Slam. Anything is fair game in wrestling. That's one of the reasons why I love it.

John Lanigan
McKeesport, PA

RL- For those that are confused at what license John's brother is trying to revoke, it is true that Percy Pringle has a mortician's license in the state of Alabama.

Audit

I apologize for you receiving my payment after your 4/15 issue. There's something terribly ironic about me being late for an April 15 deadline.

I'd have been on time but I've been audited these past few weeks. Irwin R. Shyster, the gentleman conducting the audit, was a real ballbuster. (Scott Steiner's next big finishing move.) I tried to write off all my wrestling goodies like newsletters, arena shows, souvenirs and PPV's as a medical expense claiming it as therapeutic treatment...otherwise I'd be totally mental. I.R.S. wouldn't allow it as he says the prescription isn't taking as I'm spending far too much on WCW and the WWF can't be claimed as an exemption since it's not really wrestling. To make matters worse, Shyster wanted much more than the whole thing is really worth. Afterwards, he let out a cheap Ted DiBiase laugh and told me, "You've just been Dustied...or haven't you Herd... don't mess with I.R.S.!"

Chris Martin
Springfield, IL

Booking By Zinger?

Here's my entry for the "AR" "Let's Bury Sid Vicious" contest (betcha didn't even know you were having a contest, didja Ron?)- assuming Vicious will no show Super Brawl.

Have El Gigante come to the ring first. Sid's music then starts and plays for a couple of minutes- but no Sid. Jim Ross and Dusty Rhodes announcing at ringside are confused. Ring announcer Gary Cappetta looks perplexed. WCW official Grizzly Smith then comes to the ring, confers with Cappetta, who then announces that Vicious has ten seconds to get to the ring or lose by forfeit. Gigante leads the ten count (provided he can be taught that), the bell rings, and Gigante is announced as the winner. He then grabs the mic and says his brand new line, "Sid Vicious is a coward." - and leaves.

Back to Ross and Rhodes (still being confused) when Tony Schiavone (on an interview platform in the arena) interrupts. He has Jason "I've hypnotized her" Hervey with him. (Might as well get some use out of the kid.) Tony says, "Jason, you just saw Sid Vicious back in the dressing room-tell us what happened." Jason replies, "Sid was gathering up all his belongings. He looked terrible, really worried." Schiavone, "Did he actually say anything to you?" Hervey- "Yeah, I asked where he was going and he said, 'Anywhere I don't have to wrestle El Gigante!'" and then he ran out the back door."

This angle is then shown to death on all the WCW shows in the upcoming weeks after. Sid of course doesn't even have to be in the state of Florida for any of this (Hell, he could be having a beer at McMahon's place, watching it on PPV.) What do you think? Do I win first prize? (The autographed Jeff Bowdren 8x10 photo!)

Jeff Zinger
Woodstock, ONT

RL- You got the prize wrong. Jeff's fiance Kelly wants one of Jeff's wrestling buddies to go along on the honeymoon. You win the trip. There is one catch. Kelly wants you to talk to Jeff the whole trip about wrestling.

Late word! Brian Pillman injured on 4/26 in Hammond. He wrestled in St. Louis 4/27 but limping badly. He no showed Chicago 4/28. Hope it's not serious... more good news; WCW has a rapper gimmick coming in as P.N. News.... 9

RAMBLINGS

Since this is the last issue before "Super Brawl", let me run down what will be happening one more time out in Tampa. Saturday the 18th will be a luncheon at Champions Sports Bar in the West Shore Marriot (Which is where we'll be staying.) from 11:00-4:00 with WCW personalities Paul E. Dangerously, Missy Hyatt, the Young Pistols, Ricky Morton, and Jim Ross (just added) present. The cost of the affair is 10.00. That night there is an independant card in Tampa as well as a WWF card at the Sundome. Some people have expressed interest in attending the Titan card. To each their own but I know I see enough WWF to last a lifetime so I know where I'll be. In the last Observer I think D.M. had some wishful thinking. He said WCW was in Daytona Beach on Sat. night. That's true but he said Daytona was only 1½ hours from Tampa. Tack on another hour to an hour and a half as it's close to a three hour ride. Shoot, if it was only an hour and a half, I'd go there myself. Of course Sunday is the PPV from St. Petersburg.....I've heard from two sources that Randy Savage will not be returning to the ring full time. He'll honor his Japan SWS shots and continue to do commentary. He's told associates that he feels time has passed him by with all the muscle bound guys in the biz now. I wonder how much influence Liz had on this if it's all true.....Eric Embry's favourite guy Freddie Fargo is now featured in the NWA's Wrestling Wrap-up as a heel columnist.....Black Bart, Dutch Mantell, and Dead Eye Dick (Moondog Rex) will form the Desperadoes, a comedy heel team. I thought this was wrestling.....Didn't get a chance to call the Wrestling Hotline to listen to Jim Herd "Meet The Press" of Meltzer, Beverly, and Keller but was told that Herd danced around everything. Funny when Jim Ross mentioned Herd would talk with wrestling journalists, I bet most fans thought he'd be talking to the like of Apter, Napolitano, etc.....Barry Windham has been running the shows in the towns he works in when Dusty isn't there. Good way to keep him around. Give him an important job.....To the person who asked recently about Peggy Patterson she is not retired but working as the Beast for LPWA.....Seems like no one talks about Scott Steiner much anymore after his Clash bout with Flair. Don't get down on him. He will be a great one someday.....Looks like Steve Austin will be the third Freebird after all.....Herb Abrams charging \$50.00 for ringside seats at his PPV in June. What gaul.....I love the sound effects Titan gives Rougeau's cattle prod. Funny as Hell.....Looking at the most recent set of TV tapings for WCW is depressing. Four out of six weeks are total squash shows. A disturbing trend. Someone said that when Dusty starts running out of ideas, watch out.....Roddy Piper and The Terminator (Marc Laurinadas) are shooting on the "Superboy" set 4/29.....Big Boss Man announced the top ten songs of the night in a promo for WWF on MIX 105.1 here in Orlando on 4/26.....Memo to Greg Goode: They changed the date of the showing of "Phantom of the Opera" that you have tickets for. It got moved to May 19. We'll let you know how things in St. Pete turn out. Maybe Kelly will go with your wife.....USA Today quoted Milwaukee Bucks coach Del Harris, "We don't want to put them on the foul line. We're not interested in boxing or the World Wide Wrestling Federation". Another guy who couldn't watch after the Jr. takeover. He won't even acknowledge the name change.....If (when) Dustin gets his major push, I don't feel it will be undeserved. The kid isn't resting on his daddy's shoulders. He's working his butt off to prove himself. I give him credit. He's already better than his pappy ever was.....Booker Bowdren has some good insight. He sees Titan using I.R.S. to turn Ted DiBiase down the road. How? Why of course, Rotunda audits the Million Dollar Man.....Paul "Avalanche" Neu being talked about with WCW. Another waste.....I was disappointed with the recent Sat. Night's Main Event. Sherri took too much away from the Bret Hart-DiBiase bout. You need her for someone like Warrior but when you got wo talents like the above, let them go at it. The rest of the show was horrible except Nasties-Whackers as Nasties had some real good selling spots.....Lance Levine puts out Chokehold at \$1.00 per issue. Choke is one of the frontrunners in rasslin sheet comedy. Write to Lance at 507 W. 43rd Place, Chicago, IL 60609 Got to run, see you in St. Pete, if not we'll be back in three.

Ron